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PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS OF PEACE.

IN determining these, how many restrict themselves to the question whether peace will be preserved, or war break out, in a given part of the world. A question undoubtedly of vast importance, but not necessarily decisive of the progress which the cause of peace is really making. How little do the present prospects of Temperance in our country depend on the question whether the streets of Boston or New York will on a given day be quiet, or disturbed by drunken brawls and riots! Its true prospects must be determined by the causes that control such results; and here, amid the wildest occasional outbursts of intemperance, we may perhaps discover, in beneficent agencies pervading society, precursors of a signal triumph to the cause of Temperance. So is it with Peace. Our hopes of its progress depend not on the prevention of war between Turkey and Russia, or on the abstinence of all Christendom from the sword; a consummation most devoutly to be wished as auxiliary to our great object, but by no means essential to the sure and steady progress of our cause.

The course of the angry and ominous controversy between these two powers, has disclosed at every step striking proof, that even semi-civilized governments are now held in check by influences that would, fifty years ago, have been swept away like feathers before a tempest; that it is incomparably more difficult now than it once was to embroil Christendom in a general war; that the blessings of peace are much more prized, and the evils of war far more dreaded; that no Sultan or Czar can, even on the outskirts of civilization, be allowed, without asking leave of an improved public opinion, to peril the world's peace; and that monarchs and despots themselves are banded together for its preservation by all the arts of diplomacy, and the utmost demonstrations of power. We have small respect for *such* methods of peace; but they certainly indicate not a little progress in the right direction, and show clearly enough, that our cause has, by one means or another, got a strong hold on the very men who decide every question of peace or war.

HOPEFUL INDICATIONS ABROAD.—Our friends in England are pushing on their great work with their wonted energy and zeal. The time has not yet come for the harvest; but they are sowing seed that must, in such a soil as theirs, produce it ere long. Another Peace Congress or Conference like that at Manchester last winter, is to be held early in October at Edinburgh, with every prospect of a grand and effective demonstration.

COBDEN AGAIN IN THE FIELD.—Our readers will remember the references, in our Society's late Annual Report, to Richard Cobden's very able and effective pamphlet, entitled "1793 and 1853," on England's agency in the wars consequent on the first French Revolution; a work which our English co-workers are scattering broadcast over the United Kingdom, and which is sure to leave its mark deep and permanent on the public mind. The London Herald of Peace for August, received just as we are going to press, quotes from another recent work of Mr. Cobden on the Burmese War now in progress. It is entitled, *How Wars are got up in India: The Origin of*

the Burmese War. Judging from the extracts in the Herald, it must be a very timely, bold and pungent rebuke to the rulers of Great Britain for their Eastern policy, and shows us how faithfully and fearlessly reformers in England deal with the wrongs of their own government. Let not the example be lost upon ourselves.

THE LEAVEN AT WORK ON THE CONTINENT.—A correspondent in Germany, by the name of VAN ANDEL, writes thus :—

“To any one who is not wilfully blind, the progress of our cause must appear evident and even significant, especially as it shows its influence in the present times, when the possibility of a fresh outbreak of war in Europe has been drawing so nigh. The *Preussische Kreuz-zeitung* says, and other journals echo these words, ‘How much more easy it was in the last century that a war could break out in the neighborhood of the Black Sea, whilst in our days alarming fear for such a war lies heavily on Europe! It is true, the Black Sea appears at the present to be a hundred times nearer to us than it did in former ages. In those times our fathers cared little whether ‘far beyond Turkey’ the people were fighting and killing each other; but now we are afraid, and tremble for our stocks and shares, and for our commercial connexions.”

Another remarkable instance is the fact that, whilst formerly on such like occasions the press would assume a warlike tone, and even other literary periodicals would produce entertainments of a martial kind, in these days we find that *both political and literary journals*, as well as other publications, continually bring us articles that speak, yea, even *cry aloud for peace*, and are representing war in its true and awful character. As a specimen, I have now before me one of the last numbers of the *Hamburger Literarische und Kritische Blätter*, the whole contents of which show a peaceful tendency and moral; but more especially three articles (contained in this *one* number,) the first of which is a poetical piece at the head of the paper entitled “The Deserter,” the last lines of which, in the English language, might be rendered thus :—

“Into the depth he throws his gun,
That ne’er it shall be used again;
The heavy sword he casts aside,
Which oft was drawn in fearful fight,
‘No more a warrior’s sinful arm
Shall lift thee up for death and harm,
As hath my hand — accursed deed! —
By thee made fellow-creature bleed.’
Once more he looks at the camp around,
And then he hastens o’er the ground.”

Another very excellent piece in it is called “A Battle between the Pen and the Sword,” which would be worth translating as a whole for the readers of the *Bond*. It is extracted from an old work, written by a poet of the thirteenth century. *What causes an article like that, full of the spirit of the peace movement, to be brought out again in these days?* And, lastly, at the close of the said paper, is contained a full account of the prize essays proposed by the London Peace Congress Committee.

It is, on the whole, astonishing to see in how great a measure the public mind has ceased to be deluded by appearances and political errors, and to find what correct views are gaining ground with regard to war and its uselessness on the one hand, and its fatal effects on the other, and also with regard to the wrong system of standing armies. We may well rejoice at this progress, especially under such unfavorable circumstances.”

Even the North of Europe, old Scandania, is opening its eyes on this subject: "A lively interest in the cause of peace has sprung up in Denmark and Sweden; and a whole number of our little magazine might be filled with extracts from communications and essays on the subject, which we have recently received from those countries. A venerable minister of the Gospel in Denmark has sent us two recent books of his, in which he has treated the question of peace with earnestness and ability. He writes:—'I am now about eighty-seven years of age, and was invested with my office as minister, the same Sunday on which the Gospel tells us the Founder of its spiritual kingdom said those extraordinary words to Peter—'Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.' He says:—'In my little book I have shown the many horrors of war, fancying a conversation between some friends of peace, and a reflective being who, having never heard of war, had come down to us from another sphere. The scene of the conversation is close to the field of battle where the Schlestwig-Holsteiners suffered a terrible defeat at the assault on Frederickstad, on the 5th of October, 1850. The stranger exclaims:—'Heavens! what do I see and hear? Do I see anything else but murder?' &c. &c. Prof. L., who translates the Olive Leaves into Danish, has sent us a long and very interesting letter, in which he gives many hopeful signs of progress. He writes: 'As good omens for the good cause, I will invite your attention to two recent publications from the Danish press. One of these is a little collection of poems, of which the title is '*Verdensfreden; et Oliblad*—'Universal Peace, an Olive Leaf.' It contains twelve pieces of poetry, all in the true spirit of the friends of peace. The other publication alluded to, is a novel in two volumes, from the hand of a renowned poet, Prof. H., of Copenhagen, entitled '*Robert Fulton*,' in which the author nobly and forcibly celebrates the greatness of peaceful arts, and the heroism of industry and science, the struggles and trials of their promoters, and the lofty glory of their final success.'

PROGRESS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY.—We have no space for any details of what our friends are doing here; but we will just say, that our special movement to insure by stipulated arbitration perpetual peace with England, is received with favor everywhere in words, and to some extent in deeds of prompt and zealous co-operation. Were the requisite means raised, we have not a doubt of full and speedy success. Give us the \$10,000 we ask; let the press and the pulpit heartily second the effort; let good men everywhere come up to our aid; and we deem the result we seek, morally certain. Not a few say, 'our object *MUST* be gained;' and if *all* our real friends would say the same, and act accordingly, it *would* be gained ere long.

PROSPECT OF FUNDS.—Our Society's chief servants have necessarily been too much engaged as yet in arranging details for the successful prosecution of the special effort proposed, to find much leisure for raising funds; but the few applications already made, have met with a response more prompt, hearty and liberal than ever greeted us before. There have been *sent* us subscriptions ranging all the way from \$200 down to \$10 and \$5; while some others have *volunteered* the offer of \$100 or \$200, and even more, if necessary, provided other friends of peace will show a similar liberality sufficient to insure the object in view. Let others come forward in the same spirit,

and we shall soon have funds enough. We have as yet made scarce an application except by notes with a circular addressed by mail to a few individuals; but we will not allow ourselves to doubt that our friends will be ready to bear their share of what this special movement is likely to cost. It is a *very* small sum for the result sought, and pretty sure, if suitable means are used, to be secured. And in such places as Boston and Salem, Providence and New Bedford, New York and Philadelphia, can there not be found some fifty men willing for such an object to pledge each \$100 or more? In England, only, six men lately gave an aggregate of \$15,000 for a similar movement there. Cannot, will not, *all* the friends of peace through our whole country, contribute the sum of \$10,000? Is it not time for us here to do something akin to what our English co-workers are so nobly doing; something worthy of the land that originated this great Christian enterprise, and worthy of such pioneers and champions as WORCESTER, LADD and CHANNING? John Howard gave, if we remember aright, some ten or fifteen thousand dollars a year for quite a series of years to the cause of Prison Discipline; and will not all America contribute an equal amount for a cause that really needs more than ten times as much?

We would commend this subject to the early and earnest attention, not only of our wealthy friends, but of all who can give *anything*, and ask them to do for our special effort now in progress whatever they can, and to forward by mail, or otherwise, either their contributions, or their pledges.

COST OF WAR-PANICS.—Few know or suspect how much even a serious fear of war in any part of Christendom costs the world at large. We recollect a single instance, where a ship-owner, though by no means a large one lost in consequence of the war-alarms respecting our dispute in 1839-40 with England about the north-eastern boundary, some \$25,000; and at this rate the whole nation may have lost many millions from the mere apprehension of war in this case. Everybody at all versed in money matters, knows well that millions will, in consequence of the mere rumors of war now threatened between Russia and Turkey, be lost, even should no war actually ensue, in the single matter of extra interest paid by our business men some 4,000 miles from the scene of danger. What a destroyer of human interests!

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